

Statement of Doctrinal Agreement

1. **Purpose:** A review of the Berachah Bible Church doctrinal statement is a required part of your application to become a church member. Because we have a high view of the Scriptures and biblical doctrine, membership is in part based on agreement with the church's doctrinal statement.
2. **Prospective Member Review.** As a prospective church member, please review the Berachah Bible Church doctrinal statement. After your review, select one of the following responses which best describes your agreement with our doctrinal statement:
 - a. I am in full agreement with the doctrinal statement.
 - b. I am in full agreement with the doctrinal statement except for the following paragraphs which are not clear to me (use continuation sheet at page 4 if needed):
 - c. I am in full agreement with the doctrinal statement except for the following paragraphs with which I disagree (use continuation sheet at page 4 if needed):
3. **Elder Review of Your Response.**
 - a. If you selected "a", your full agreement with the doctrinal statement will be noted as the elders review your membership application.
 - b. If you selected "b", a small team of elders (usually two) will be pleased to provide an explanation of any part of the doctrinal statement you do not understand. In the space provided or on the continuation sheet at page 4, please identify the specific topics or paragraphs on which you would like to receive further information. Also, list questions you would like to have answered. The elders will review and discuss (if needed) the doctrinal issues you identified. The elders may also recommend that you complete reading materials or informal or formal instruction to help clarify your understanding of the doctrinal areas in question.
 - c. If you selected "c", a small team of elders (usually two) will meet with you to discuss and clarify your areas of doctrinal disagreement. Please briefly explain why you are in disagreement with the doctrinal statement in the space provided or on the

continuation sheet at page 4. The elders will then determine whether the areas of disagreement are significant enough to affect membership. After the elder's review and decision, doctrinal disagreements may result in one of three courses of actions by the elders:

- 1) The doctrinal disagreement(s) may not require any further action. Subject to other membership requirements, membership WILL BE recommended.
- 2) The doctrinal disagreements may be noted in the membership application. Subject to other membership requirements, membership WILL BE recommended.
- 3) Membership may be considered not in the best interest of the prospective member or the church and membership WILL NOT BE recommended.

4. Membership Doctrinal Provisions. In order to be recommended for membership, a prospective member must agree to the following SIX PROVISIONS:

- a. *Participation of Prospective New Members and Members.* Prospective members and members agree to participate in new member orientation, new member Bible classes, and the teaching and preaching ministries of Berachah Bible Church.
- b. *Summary of Church Beliefs and Practice.* Prospective members and members agree that the church's doctrinal statement is a summary of what Berachah Bible Church believes, preaches, teaches, and practices. From time to time, doctrinal positions which are not in agreement with the church's doctrinal statement may be identified as error or as alternate views not taught by our church.
- c. *Weakening of Doctrinal Statement or Leadership.* Prospective members and members agree not to weaken the Berachah Bible Church's doctrinal statement or the elders' position or actions on a doctrinal matter consistent with the doctrinal statement. This could be done, for example, by attempting to persuade, explain, or imply to other church members or prospective church members that the doctrinal statement is in error or that church leaders or members are in error when they are teaching or acting consistent with the doctrinal statement. This provision is not intended to prevent doctrinal or theological questions or discussions in church classes or study groups led by elder approved teachers.
- d. *Member Qualifications for Ministry.* Prospective members and members agree that doctrinal agreement is an important qualification for Berachah Bible Church member ministry participation or ministry leadership positions. Doctrinal disagreement of a member with the doctrinal statement may mean that the elders could determine that a member is not eligible for certain ministry leadership and teaching positions or that

limits could be placed on a member’s ministry responsibilities. The elders encourage all members to seek and participate in church ministry. However, ministry qualifications are determined by the elders on a case by case basis for each ministry position.

- e. *Change in Doctrinal Position.* Prospective members and church members agree that if they change their doctrinal views to the extent that this agreement with the church doctrinal statement is no longer applicable, they will notify the elders of the change.
- f. *Honoring Your Agreement.* Prospective members and members agree to honor this agreement and that intentional or repeated member disregard of these provisions could trigger elder involvement to safeguard the doctrinal integrity of the church. Elder involvement may result in review of member actions. Remedial action, if appropriate, could include: loss of ministry responsibilities or position and in serious cases up to and including loss of membership privileges.

TO BE SIGNED AFTER ELDER REVIEW OF YOUR RESPONSES ABOVE AND PRIOR TO BEING RECOMMENDED FOR MEMBERSHIP:

By my signature below, I acknowledge that I am in full agreement with the Berachah Bible Church doctrinal statement except as otherwise noted in paragraph 2b or 2c above. I also commit to uphold the doctrinal integrity of Berachah Bible Church by acting consistently with the membership doctrinal provisions in paragraph 4 (see above).

SIGNATURE	DATE
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PRINTED NAME

ELDER	DATE
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ELDER	DATE
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PRINTED NAME

CONTINUATION SHEET FOR REMARKS